

James Dworman

From: Harold B. Bettie III <reftech.hb@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2015 7:00 PM
To: James Dworman
Subject: Re: Assault Hearing

Hello Jim,

This is Harold Bettie, I'm an Official who reside in the city of Detroit and officiate high school basketball in the metro Detroit area.

Unfortunately I can't get away from work on the day of the hearing. However, I'd like to know is there a way to survey the officials? Within the past two weeks I was confronted and threaten, Last week on 1/23 @ Pershing and Last night 1/30 @ Troy Athens.

Also on 1/23, one of my partners was threatened in a game at Farmington Hills Harrison.

These types of acts against officials should not go unnoticed. It's now to the point where I'm not going to work Basketball anymore. The only reason I was doing it was for the students and because I recognize that we have a shortage of officials.

Thanks for organizing this effort.

Regards,

Sent from my iPad
Harold B. Bettie III
[Reftech.hb@gmail.com](mailto:reftech.hb@gmail.com)

James Dworman

From: Timothy Stopczynski <tstop138@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2015 2:49 PM
To: James Dworman
Subject: New Law

Jim,

Although I'm unable to attend the function on Feb 3rd, I sincerely hope this law goes into effect..

I was also involved in an incident at a football game in which I was assaulted by a player and then confronted in the parking lot by an intoxicated spectator.. Thankfully no major injuries occurred and it was handled professionally by Mark Uyl and the MHSAA..

I truly wish that I could attend but have prior commitments.. Good luck!!

Respectfully,

Timothy Stopczynski

Sent from my iPhone

James Dworman

From: Matthew Riley <riley.matthew95@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2015 2:43 PM
To: James Dworman
Subject: Officials Assault Legislation

Hello Mr. Dworman,

I received the letter today regarding the officials assault legislation and the invitation to appear with fellow officials in front of the Michigan Senate Judiciary Committee.

While I am currently attending Wendelstedt Umpire School, and I am unable to attend on Tuesday afternoon, I wanted to pledge to you my wholehearted support for the bill.

As Umpire in Chief of the local Waterford Little League and active official for the past seven years, I can attest that while its unfortunate to say that the bill is necessary, the bill is absolutely necessary.

In my role as Umpire in Chief of the Little League, I have seen umpires harassed first hand. And at that, the umpires I have seen harassed have been children. 13-16 year olds, just earning a little money in a sport they love, being harassed and (to this point in time only verbally) abused. It is unacceptable, reprehensible, and must be reacted to strongly and strictly. And while the Little League, and all local sports leagues can react strongly as mine does, barring coaches and spectators who commit such acts, it doesn't stop them. They move on to their next sport, next official, next league and next incident of harassment, or assault.

In addition, I myself was harassed in the same way working a six year olds softball game in 2008 as a 14 year old. After calling a strike three to end the inning, a body builder coach, at 6'5" 300 pounds, intimidated me into changing my call. I vividly remember quitting the next day and crying when I got home.

And while I would love to say this bill is proactive, not reactive, as the incident in Westland shows, it is not. We have waited until a person - a father, son, and brother - was killed while doing what he loved. It is only a matter of time before something similar occurs again. Will it take a young teenager being killed by a crazy coach?

It is unfortunate to say that this kind of legislation is necessary in 2015 to prevent, or at the least, create stern repercussions against, these incidents from occurring. But it absolutely is.

Thank you for your time, and thank you for spearheading this great campaign. Please let me know if I can be of any assistance to you throughout what is sure to be a lengthy, but well worth it, fight.

Matthew J. Riley
Umpire in Chief, Waterford Little League MHSAA ID#4286

Sent from my iPhone

